



UNFPA Sierra Leone

# COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT

10 MAY 2020



## COVID-19 UPDATES

New cases: 16

Total cases: 307

Female: 138

Male: 169

Total deaths: 18

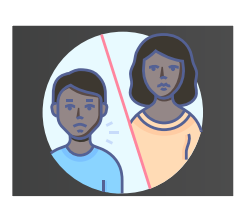
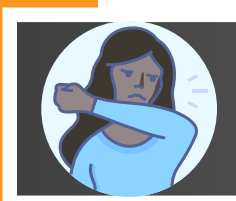
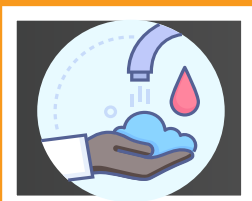
Case Fatality Rate: 5.9%

Recovered: 67

Total in quarantine: 2,051

UNFPA Sierra Leone continues to deliver a comprehensive programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health, while responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our programme focuses on:

- 01** Ensuring the availability of gender-based violence prevention and response services
- 02** Sustaining quality Sexual and Reproductive Health services
- 03** Sustaining the supply of modern contraceptives and other lifesaving reproductive health commodities up to the last mile
- 04** Increasing the demand for sexual and reproductive health and genderbased violence services



# 01

## » Ensuring the availability of gender-based violence prevention and response services

**Vulnerability of women and girls to gender based violence may increase in times of emergency. To mitigate these effects, UNFPA Sierra Leone is ensuring that GBV prevention and response services are available and scaled up during and after the COVID-19 crisis.**



Handover of dignity kits



### Dignity kits

To date, UNFPA has distributed **3,157** dignity kits, with sanitisers, masks and other essential items. These kits are provided for those most in need and those that are in quarantine.

### Psychosocial support

UNFPA is the lead UN agency supporting the national Psychosocial Pillar, which is chaired by the Ministry of Social Welfare. A psychological first aid training manual is being developed for response workers in order to guide the provision of supportive response to those affected by COVID-19.

### GBV hotline

In April 2020, The Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, with the support of UNFPA, established a GBV "116" hotline to provide counselling and referral services to survivors of gender based violence.

### GBV services

UNFPA is ensuring the availability of free counselling and clinical services to GBV survivors through our NGO partner Rainbo Initiative at two centres as well as supporting the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs to set up two government sites.

## » Sustaining quality sexual and reproductive health services



Treatment centre under construction

**UNFPA is supporting the government to implement strategic interventions to keep health systems functioning. With a focus on maintaining the provision of SRHR information and services, to protect health workers from contracting the infection, and to limit the spread of COVID-19 in communities.**

### Rapid assessment of maternal health and family planning services

To better understand the effects of the pandemic on the current status of sexual reproductive health services, UNFPA is conducting a rapid assessment with a focus on Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care and Family Planning Services. This assessment has been piloted, and will assess seven Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) sites as well as 10 BEmONC sites

The primary objectives are to assess:

- Infection Prevention and Control in clinics
- Availability of maternal health and family planning services
- Patient attendance (to determine if the pandemic has affected uptake of services)

### COVID-19 isolation centre

UNFPA is supporting the establishment of isolation centres in the five CEmONC facilities in the country. These facilities will be equipped with delivery beds, hospital beds, delivery equipment and supplies. The isolation centres will be operated by midwives trained in infection prevention and control.

A separate isolation facility is being established, with support from UNFPA, to provide for UN staff and personnel.

### COVID-19 Treatment centre

In collaboration with the UN Country Team, UNFPA is coordinating the construction of a specialised COVID-19 treatment centre to support the national response. This is a truly collaborative, One UN approach:

- **UN Clinic** are providing technical support
- **UNDP** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 34 Military Hospital
- **UNFPA** is the coordinating agency and is providing technical supervision
- **WFP** is serving as the construction contractor
- **WHO** are providing technical guidance to ensure adherence to quality standards.

# 03

## » Sustaining the supply of modern contraceptives and other lifesaving reproductive health commodities up to the last mile

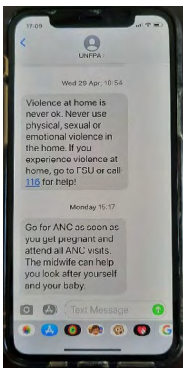
Contraceptives and lifesaving maternal health medicines are being pre-positioned in all districts to ensure a minimum of six months' supply. The priority is to prevent stock outs that may arise as a result of restricted inter-district movements and deviation of resources to the pandemic response.

The distribution covers all **16 districts** and **24 hospitals** in the country. Contraceptives and essential maternal health medicines, valued at **\$361,661.46**, are being distributed to protect an estimated **120,000** couples from unintended pregnancies for a year.

# 04

## » Increasing demand for sexual and reproductive health and gender based violence services among women and girls

### Key messaging on priority areas



At least 600,000 people are being targeted through a new public - private partnership ("Reach" strategic partnership) between UNFPA, in collaboration with the government, UN partners and the mobile phone provider Africell SL. SMS messages are targeted for literate subscribers and voice messages are targeted for low literacy subscribers. These messages are on GBV, family planning, maternal health and coronavirus.

The mass media campaign includes a social media component, through WhatsApp and Twitter, primarily aiming to reach more technologically-literate women

and girls. Radio jingles with similar messages are being aired daily on four radio stations that have a national reach. The ultimate aim of the campaign is to prevent GBV and to increase demand for family planning, maternal health and GBV services.

### National life skills radio programme

UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to air life skills session on the Radio Teaching Programme, based on the national life skills manual "I am somebody". The programme is aired five days per week and aims to reach both in and out of school adolescents.



## Ensuring availability of resources

A comprehensive COVID-19 Response Plan has been developed. The plan focuses on UNFPA's key priority areas to guide UNFPA's humanitarian support. UNFPA Sierra Leone has reviewed all Country Office funds, reprogrammed and reallocated resources to ensure programme continuity as well as COVID-19 response activities are covered. UNFPA Sierra Leone appreciates the flexibility and support of our donors DFID, Iceland and Irish Aid for the reprogramming approval.